

Fate Creek Culvert Replacement ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

South River Field Office

EA# OR-105-02-08

Date Prepared: May 3, 2002

Finding of No Significant Impact

The South River Field Office, Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), has completed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Fate Creek Culvert Replacement project. Two alternatives were analyzed consisting of a "Proposed Action" identified as Alternative 1, and "No Action" identified as Alternative 2. The Alternatives are described in Chapter 2 of the EA (pp. 3-4).

The following Critical Elements of the Human Environment are not relevant because they are not present in the project area and would not be affected: Wild and Scenic Rivers; Wetlands; Wilderness; Wastes, Hazardous or Solid.

The following Critical Elements of the Human Environment would not be affected by the proposed culvert replacement: Air Quality; Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC); Prime of Unique Farmlands; Visual Resources; Water Quality. No unique characteristics would be impacted, as described in Council on Environmental Regulations contained in the Code of Federal Regulations at 40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(3)

The proposed project is consistent with Executive Order 12898 which addresses Environmental Justice in minority and low-income populations. There would be no impacts to low-income or minority populations that have been identified by the BLM internally or through the public involvement process. Correspondence with local Native American tribal governments did not identify any known unique or special resources in the project area which provide employment, subsistence or recreation opportunities.

Correspondence with local Native American tribal governments did not identify any religious concerns or values associated with the project area, so there would be no anticipated effects on Native American Religious Concerns. (40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(8)).

Section 106 responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act have been completed by the BLM in accordance with the 1998 Oregon State Historic Preservation Office protocols. A review of current inventories did not identify any extant cultural or historical resources in the project area that would be affected so there would be no impacts to scientific, cultural, or historical resources. (40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(8))

There are no terrestrial wildlife or plant species present in the project area listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

Fate Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for the Oregon Coast coho salmon, a Federally-threatened species, and the Oregon Coast steelhead trout, a candidate for listing as threatened. The effects of culvert replacement on the coho salmon and steelhead trout are primarily derived from sediment generated by stream bank disturbance and in-stream activities associated with the project. These effects were determined to be “likely to adversely affect” in the short term, but would not jeopardize continued existence of the coho salmon and steelhead trout. Effects on Essential Fish Habitat are considered substantively the same. In the long term, salmon and trout would be beneficially affected by the restoration of access to approximately four miles of feeding, spawning and rearing habitat in Fate Creek. The National Marine Fisheries Service addressed the effects of projects of this nature in the August 8, 2001, Programmatic Biological and Conference Opinion for Programmatic Activities Affecting SONC Coho Salmon, OC Coho Salmon, and OC Steelhead. This opinion sets forth Terms and Conditions in conjunction with authorization of Incidental Take. This project is consistent with those terms and conditions, and as a consequence, would not have any significant adverse impacts to coho salmon, steelhead trout and Essential Fish Habitat, within the context of 40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(9).

The proposed culvert replacement is consistent with applicable Federal, State, and local laws (40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(10)).

Of the twelve points listed under 40 CFR § 1508.27(b), the following were considered and found not to apply to the proposed action: significant beneficial or adverse effects; significant effects on public health or safety; effects on the quality of the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial; anticipated cumulatively significant impacts; highly uncertain or unknown risks; and no precedents for future actions with significant effects.

Based on the analysis of potential impacts contained in the EA, I have determined that the proposed action will not have significant impact on the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and that an EIS is not required.

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South River Field Office

Date